

Take Action: Save Water

Water pollution and conservation are serious issues we face today. With overpopulation in metropolitan areas, we need to take action, and soon, or the consequences may be irreversible. Growing cities like Atlanta need water to sustain their growth. Without proper resources, they will be unable to attract industry and new residents to support a growing need for tax revenues. Essentially, without water, cities will decay from within economically.

Water is a natural resource. This means that it cannot be produced in factories. However, we ourselves cannot stop needing water. It is essential to our everyday lives. Because we cannot cease to use water, we must learn how to consume less of it. There are many ways to do this. Some methods are very simplistic and are commonly known, such as taking shorter showers or turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth. While these are all very good ways to conserve water, there are other, more significant ways to reduce water waste in your home.

One such method is useful for catching runoff from your roof and gutters. This process involves a drum, which attaches to your rain spout to catch rainwater that would normally be returned to the aquifer. The water can now be employed for things like landscaping. This along with other water-conserving techniques can make a difference in reducing the waste of water.

Though water consumption is a serious issue, it is not the only thing affecting our water resources today. Water pollution is also something to be concerned about. Litter and spillages affect our water in horrible ways. Water is easily polluted and the damage is not always reversible. Though you may not realize it, this affects all life, not just people. In fact, 16% of Georgia's streams support no aquatic life. With water quality declining, much of Georgia's resources have been declared unusable. We must put a stop to water pollution before it goes too far.

Litter is one of the most common water pollutants. Usually it gathers in storm runoff, compiling into sewers and eventually leading out into larger bodies of water. However, little

pollution is easy to fix. If you spot any trash around your community, take a moment to pick it up. If you have something that needs to be thrown away, find a trash can instead of throwing it on the ground.

Common outdoor spillages and leaks can also pollute water. Leaks from vehicles can be harmful to water and aquatic life. Fertilizer piles can be swept into drains, and so can other stray substances. Chemicals are large contributors to water pollution, so if you spill something, be sure to clean it up!

In conclusion, we now know that our water is a precious resource that seems to be slipping away. Everyone can do their part to help, and eventually we can adapt to using less water and keeping what we have clean. We each have the power to protect our water. All there is left to do is take action.

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